Santa Clara County
Lomas Lagrimas or the "Hill of Tears"

By John Pusateri

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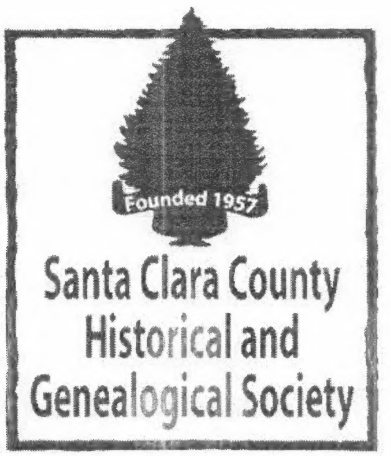
Notes:

- Original in possession of the Santa Clara County Archives, San Jose, California
- Scanned by the Santa Clara Historical and Genealogical Society



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CLASS II - HISTORICAL

"LOMAS LACRIMAS - (THE HILLS OF TEARS)"

Four miles south of San Jose, apparently forming a barrier across the valley, lies a chain of low hills about two miles long called the Lomas Lagrimas (Hills of Tears). These hills are not big, nor do they obstruct the road that leads south.

Toward the end of the 18th Century a band of Spanish settlers coming up from the state of Sonora encountered a low marshy lake bottom before reaching these hills, - at the point where Edenvale stands today. Confronted by the difficulties of this unfavorable terrain, they lost time, and their provisions ran short. They endured privation and suffering, and soon sickness developed among them. Many of the women and children wept during these hours. Their hopes lay in the possibility of finding the land they had heard of - a beautiful valley. This, they believed, lay over the high range of mountains that loomed in the east (Mt. Hamilton Range), which was some days' march away.

The Santa Clara Valley is oval in form, and at this point is narrow. The disheartened settlers, unable to see that it lay just beyond the hills, believed there was still more suffering ahead of them.

Finally, when they had scaled the south side of the hills, they looked down upon a beautiful valley. Their enthusiasm was so intense that they wept with joy. A cross was erected immediately on the top of the hills, which they named Lomas Lagrimas. They had found the land

CLASS II - HISTORICAL

"LOMAS LAGRIMAS - (THE HILLS OF TEARS)"
(continued)

of their dreams. Thus the legend ends.

Today U. S. Highway 101 cuts the west base of these hills. A beautiful home of Spanish type is built upon the summit, commanding the road below. There are two other homes, one at the north base of the hill, and the other slightly higher, on the slope. Two tall trees stand near the house at the hilltop, like sentinels.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

History of San Jose and surroundings - F. Hall

Consultant: Mr. Oscar Eckstein, owner of the Hills of Tears.